



*Appointed by Joseph A*

*Curtatone, Mayor*

**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021

**Time:** 6:30-8:00pm

**Location:** Virtual Meeting using GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/539724445>

**Community Representatives:**

Ted Alexander

\*Ginny Alverson – Vice Chair

Jessica Bellow

\*Laura Evans

\*Jessica Ferguson

\*Rauvin Johl

Paola Massoli

\*Audrey Orenstein – Secretary

\*Vitor Pamplona

\*Zach Rosenberg – Chair

\*Julia Toof

\*Emily Vides

**Ex-Officio:**

\*Katjana Ballantyne, *City Council*

\*Alexandra Kleyman, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*

\*Justin Schreiber, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*

\*=present

**Guests:**

Arah Schuur - SASS

**Acting Secretary:** Laura Evans

**Call to order:** 6:35 PM

**Agenda Item 1: Administrivia**

1. Approval of April minutes, motion by Audrey seconded by Vitor. Approved 8-0.
2. This is Rauvin's last meeting; she's moving out of Somerville and resigning from the committee.

**Agenda Item 2: Pearl Street Recommendations**

3. Julia presented the recommendations from the Engineering subcommittee. She and Paola visited the area and took pictures of issues.
4. Issues include
  - a. Cars park very close to the intersections, which creates visibility issues for pedestrians
  - b. Missing STOP signs
  - c. Misaligned crosswalks and curb cuts, or missing curb cuts
  - d. Schools in the area means lots of children walking in the area
  - e. Cars do seem to be respecting the painted bumpouts and not parking in them
  - f. Recommendation to remove one lane of parking to allow bike lanes on both sides
    - i. Justin commented that the differing widths of Pearl Street make it challenging to do bike lanes on both sides for the entire direction and there are tradeoffs between bike lanes and chicanes.

- g. Street lighting needs to be improved along the whole corridor.
- h. Add an audible traffic signal, perhaps at Cross Street

### **Agenda Item 3: Officer Elections**

- 5. Candidates
  - a. Chair: Zach Rosenberg
  - b. Vice Chair: Ginny Alverson
  - c. Secretary: Audrey Orenstein
- 6. Vote was taken to re-elect all incumbents; passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item 4: SASS Rally**

- 7. Emily shared her experience at the most recent SASS meeting, which included a walk from her neighborhood to Stop and Shop. Conditions were dangerous and not ADA-compliant.
- 8. Rally to pressure MassDOT (since these are state roads) May 26th; will be attended by many local representatives
- 9. Katjana shared an update from the city's Finance department on the possibility of using federal infrastructure funding for projects like this, but the city has not received exact details yet
- 10. Arah mentioned MassDOT's fast tracked project to replace the steel on I93 in this area, which does not include street safety improvements or sound/pollution barriers
- 11. SASS has a safe street design guide with recommended elements; they would PTAC to review and vote in support (at next meeting)

### **Agenda Item 5: Annual Report**

- 12. Zach presented the Annual Report. Goal is to finalize it by next meeting.

### **Agenda Item 6: City Update**

- 13. Ali and Justin provided an update on several projects
  - a. MassDOT projects
    - i. Many MassDOT projects happening in the Mystic and McGrath area
  - b. NACTO training
    - i. Examine city's current transportation-related roles to consider organizational structure
    - ii. Need to standardize processes and designs across the city
  - c. Somerville is supporting NACTO's advocacy to overhaul the MUTCD
  - d. Parking Study
    - i. Phase 1 (curb inventory and occupancy data) is underway
    - ii. Hope to begin Phase 2 (policy changes) in July
  - e. Development Review – saved for next meeting
  - f. Other Brief Project Updates
    - i. Lower Medford St – repaving is complete, markings & posts in next few weeks
    - ii. Soemrville Ave – raised crosswalks being installed, streetscape work continues
    - iii. College Ave – Initial drainage work beginning, sidewalk to begin mid-June
    - iv. Shared Streets Grant Projects – pavement markings in next few weeks on Mystic Ave bus lane and Wellington Bridge bike lanes

- v. Powder House Circle – work planned to start in July/August; request for PTAC to help with outreach
- vi. Many ongoing pavement marking projects to refresh crosswalks and bike lanes
- vii. Western Washington update at next PTAC meeting
- viii. Pearl Street in conceptual design
- ix. Piloting tactical intersection improvements as part of resurfacing program
- x. Piloting 'light construction' program for corridors with multiple problematic intersections

**Meeting ended:** 8:06 PM